

We keep a cost system, just as any manufacturing concern does, but we take no account of labor cost, or rent or fuel or depreciation or maintenance or advertising or office overhead—I do the office work and the bread advertises itself among the soldiers. Last month the material alone cost the government 4.23 cents per pound and the month before each pound cost 4.15 cents. Yes, the government suffers from "Hi Cost" as well as anybody. We put the best material we can buy in our army bread, for Uncle Sam's soldiers are a particular lot and their bread must be good else they will write their congressman about it and we regulars will then get —. I envy you state soldie rs. You can write home and to Washington and you can say what you please. If we open our heads we get a slam on the beak. But this is good bread and that is just what it costs. If we counted the labor and other overhead coss, the government would have to sell for about fifteen to twenty cents a big loaf to come out even."

"I hope your pictures of my oven and the Cap'n are good, and if you'll send me one of each that you have taken, barring the one of my old fiz, I'll be much obliged," said the beaming old warrior, as he led me down past his row of black ovens, standing in perfect line and respectfully at "attention" as we passed in review. Then

the bakery crew was called out for inspection—queer looking soldiers in white aprons and bare arms and chests, but soldiers just the same and prepared to hustle out of their bunks at 2 o'clock next morning to rustle the food for these hungry ovens, or to shoulder a rifle and hop for a trench or into a charge, if necessary.

As I spread a healthy slice of that delicious bread with fresh creamery butter that night at mess and reached over for a helping of fresh meat, potatoes, gravy and vegetables, rounding off with some salad and a desert, I was bound to say, "Well this is soldering de luxe."

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"What are you going to make of your son, Charlie?" I asked.

"Well," replied Charlie's father, "I made a doctor of Bob, a lawyer of Ralph and a minister of Bert; and Joe is a literary man. I think I'll make a laboring man of Charlie. I want one of them to have a little money."—Life.

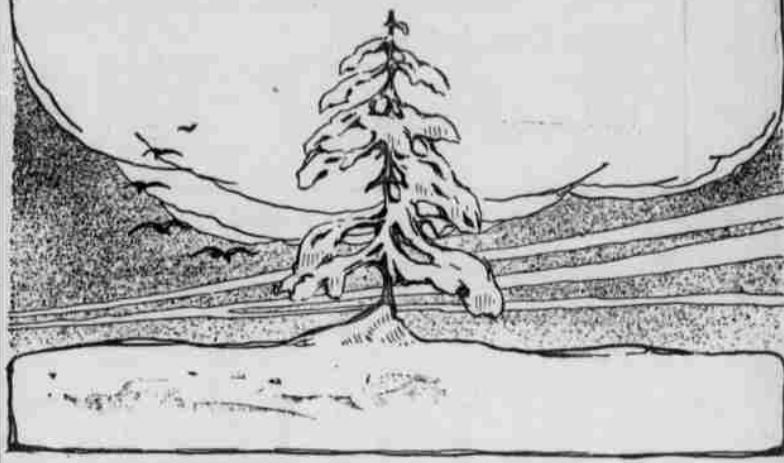
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